**RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES
AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

This paper is responsive to: (1) the Office Action mailed on January 25, 2006, requiring an election of species in the above-identified application, and (2) the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on March 30, 2006. The Examiner states in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment that the Amendment submitted on March 23, 2006 is unsigned or not signed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.4. In response, Applicant now submits a signed Response.

The Examiner states in the Office Action that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: species drawn to the area enveloped by a coupling mechanism where an extension is knurled, species drawn to the area enveloped by a coupling mechanism where an extension shows no discontinuities in adjacent transverse cross-sections (i.e., smooth), species drawn to an extension having a cavity with a knurled interior cavity where the coupling mechanism fits within the cavity, and species drawn to the shape of the extension: i.e., rectangular, oval, football-like, circular. The Examiner states that Applicant is required to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

In response, Applicant elects the species drawn to the area enveloped by a coupling mechanism where an extension is knurled. Claims 1, 3-6, 14, 15, and 21 are readable thereon.

Conclusion

Please consider this paper a Petition for an Extension of Time of one month. A fee of $120.00 is believed due as a result of this Petition. Any deficiencies or credits necessary to complete this communication should be applied to Deposit Account No. 23-3000. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions or remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,
WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By: /David E. Jefferies/
    David E. Jefferies, Reg. No. 46,800